



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for the user directed manual application of a fluid material in a linear pattern to a surface from a container holding the fluid comprising:

the container holding a fluid, the container having an application end from which fluid is applied to the surface at a volume flow rate that provides a volume/linear distance of the linear pattern,

a controllable pressure system that causes pressure in the container, wherein application of higher pressure causes increased flow of fluid from the container and reduction of pressure causes reduced flow of fluid from the container,

a speed indicator that provides a signal of the relative speed between the application end and the surface,

a microprocessor that reads the signal and determines if the controllable pressure is at a predetermined target level with respect to the relative speed, the microprocessor adjusting the controllable pressure system to attempt to maintain a standard volume of liquid per linear distance of the linear pattern;

wherein the container holding a fluid is held by hand by a user.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1 2 wherein the user moves the container along the linear pattern.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 1 2 wherein the speed indicator comprises a wheel that rotates along the linear path on the surface.



5. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein a bead dimension, bead volume, or liquid flow rate/linear distance is provided in memory in the microprocessor as a measure of the standard volume to be maintained.

6. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein the microprocessor can be accessed to provide a standard volume to be maintained by applying a bead of liquid and manual input to the microprocessor can indicate when the bead is an acceptable size.

7. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein the pressure is adjusted by motivation of a plunger in the container.

8. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein the pressure is maintained by injecting or withdrawing fluid in the container

9. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 1 wherein determining if the controllable pressure is at a predetermined target level with respect to the relative speed is effected by comparing a measured speed and measured liquid volume flow rate to at least two values, one value representing a high tolerance level for liquid volume/speed of application and a second value representing a low tolerance limit for liquid volume/speed of application.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system manually held by an operator and moved along a surface on which a fluid material is to be applied for the manual application of the a fluid material in a linear pattern to a surface from a container holding the fluid comprising:

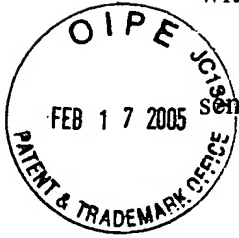
the container holding a fluid, the container having an application end from which fluid is applied to the surface at a volume flow rate that provides a (volume of fluid/linear distance) of the linear pattern,

a controllable pressure system that causes pressure in the container, wherein application of higher pressure causes increased flow of fluid from the container and reduction of pressure causes reduced flow of fluid from the container,

a control that can adjust the controllable pressure and can set the controllable pressure in the container at a constant level, and

a microprocessor that receives signals regarding conditions in the environment of the system and determines if the controllable pressure is at a predetermined target level with respect to a target speed,

the microprocessor adjusting the controllable pressure system in response to sensed changes in conditions that alter the volume of fluid/liner distance.



11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 10 wherein said conditions are selected from the group consisting of ambient temperature, fluid temperature, fluid viscosity, container angle, and power variations in the pressure control system, ~~and pressure increases at the application end.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system of claim 10 wherein the container holding a fluid is held by hand by a user as the user moves the applicator.

13. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 12 wherein the user moves the container along the linear pattern.

14. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 12 wherein a speed indicator measures relative speed of movement of the application end to a surface and the speed indicator comprises a wheel that rotates along the linear path on the surface.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method comprising applying a fluid material to a surface from a container, applying pressure to the fluid material to deliver a bead of material to a surface, observing flow rate of a bead delivered from the container at a relative speed of movement between an application end of the container and the surface, and setting a pressure control on a pressure control system that controls the pressure on the fluid material to provide a bead of desired size at the relative speed.

16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15 wherein a sensor is present that provides data to a microprocessor that directs the pressure control system, the sensor measuring

conditions that can alter bead size applied at the speed, the microprocessor directing the pressure control system to alter pressure in response to data indicating that bead size will alter because of sensed changing conditions.



17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein conditions sensed are selected from the group consisting of ambient temperature, fluid temperature, fluid viscosity, container angle, power variations in the pressure control system, and pressure increases at the application end.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein conditions sensed comprise a change in the relative speed between the application end and the surface.

19. (NEW) The system of claim 9 wherein the applicator comprises a tube of fluid material having an nozzle, wherein pressure inside the tube is controlled by forces applied through either or both of a plunger and a gas pressure applicator.

20. (NEW) The system of claim 19 wherein the plunger is controlled by a control selected from the group consisting of stepper motor, pneumatic drive, magnetic drive and a linear gear arrangement.



SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Restriction requirement

Restriction was required between claims 1-14 as Group I and Claims 15-18 as Group II, Applicants electing, with traverse, the claims of Group I for prosecution on the merits.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 7-9 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weston in view of Lenhardt.

Claims 4 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Weston in view of Lenhardt when further considered with Holder.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Weston in view of Lenhardt when further considered with Price.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Weston in view of Lenhardt when further considered with Bretmersky.